

IN THE CLAIMS

Applicants hereby present the claims, their status in the application, and amendments thereto as indicated:

1. (Withdrawn) A saddle for use on a horse's back comprising a combination of a saddle tree unit having a cantle end and a pommel end, a saddle flap unit, and a panel unit, wherein the panel unit and saddle flap unit are removably securable to the saddle tree unit.

2. (Withdrawn) A saddle as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the saddle flap unit comprises two flap components, one securable to each side of the tree unit, wherein each flap component is securable in at least two different orientations.

3. (Withdrawn) A saddle as claimed in Claim 2 wherein each flap component comprises an upper saddle flap and a lower sweat flap.

4. (Withdrawn) A saddle as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the saddle flap unit is bolted to fixings located in the tree unit.

5. (Withdrawn) A saddle as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the saddle tree unit is formed from a flexible material allowing lateral flexing of the tree unit

6. (Withdrawn) A saddle as claimed in Claim 5 wherein the material is a polyurethane resin.

7. (Withdrawn) A saddle as claimed in Claim 6 wherein the resin has a Shore hardness of approximately 90 on the "A" scale.

8. (Withdrawn) A saddle as claimed in Claim 5 wherein the saddle tree unit further comprises a Y-shaped strengthening bar wherein the forks of the Y-shape are directed towards the cantle end of the saddle tree unit.

9. (Withdrawn) A saddle as claimed in Claim 8 wherein the strengthening bar is made from carbon fibre.

10. (Withdrawn) A saddle as claimed in Claim 8 wherein the pommel end of the saddle tree unit is angularly adjustable.

11. (Withdrawn) A saddle as claimed in Claim 8 wherein the saddle tree unit further comprises a head plate located near to the pommel end.

12. (Withdrawn) A saddle as claimed in Claim 11 wherein the head plate is malleable.

13. (Withdrawn) A saddle as claimed in Claim 11 wherein the head plate is securable in an aperture located in the saddle tree unit.

14. (Withdrawn) A saddle as claimed in Claim 11 wherein the head plate is formed integrally within the saddle tree unit.

15. (Withdrawn) A saddle as claimed in Claim 12 wherein the head plate is formed from malleable steel.

16. (Withdrawn) A saddle as claimed in Claim 12 wherein the saddle tree unit further comprises two recessed portions, one at either side of the tree near to the pommel end, into which stirrup bars are securable.

17. (Withdrawn) A saddle as claimed in Claim 12 wherein the saddle tree unit further comprises at least one sheet of bi-directional carbon fibre, applied to at least one of the upper and lower surfaces.

18. (Withdrawn) A saddle as claimed in Claim 12 wherein the saddle tree unit further comprises girth web apertures located at both the pommel end and the cantle end.

19. (Withdrawn) A saddle as claimed in Claim 12 wherein the saddle flap unit further comprises a girth web.

20. (Withdrawn) A saddle as claimed in Claim 12 wherein the panel unit further comprises a panel plate.

21. (Withdrawn) A saddle as claimed in Claim 20 wherein the panel plate is formed from a flexible material.

22. (Withdrawn) A saddle as claimed in Claim 20 further comprising a seat attached to an upper surface of the saddle tree.

23. (Currently amended) A saddle tree comprising a tree body having a pommel end and a cantle end, the tree body being formed from a flexible resin material allowing lateral flexing of the tree and a Y-shaped strengthening bar wherein the forks of the Y-shape are directed towards the cantle end of the saddle tree and ~~whereby~~ wherein the strengthening bar inhibits the transmission of forces from the pommel end to the cantle end is made from carbon fibre.

24. (Currently amended) A saddle tree as claimed in Claim 23 wherein the strengthening bar is made from bidirectional carbon fibre bonded with epoxy resin.

25. (Previously presented) A saddle tree as claimed in Claim 23 wherein the pommel end of the saddle tree is angularly adjustable.

26. (Previously presented) A saddle tree as claimed in Claim 23 further comprising a head plate located near to the pommel end.

27. (Original) A saddle tree as claimed in Claim 26 wherein the head plate is malleable.

28. (Previously presented) A saddle tree as claimed in Claim 26 wherein the head plate is securable in an aperture located in the saddle tree.

29. (Previously presented) A saddle tree as claimed in Claim 26 wherein the head plate is formed integrally within the saddle tree.

30. (Previously presented) A saddle tree as claimed in Claim 26 wherein the head plate is formed from malleable steel.

31. (Previously presented) A saddle tree as claimed in Claim 23 further including two recessed portions, one at either side of the tree near to the pommel end, in which stirrup bars are securable.

32. (Previously presented) A saddle tree as claimed in Claim 23 further comprising a sheet of bi-directional carbon fibre applied to at least one of the upper and lower surfaces.

33. (Previously presented) A saddle tree as claimed in Claim 23 further comprising girth web apertures located at both the pommel and the cantle end.

34. (Previously amended) A saddle comprising the saddle tree of claim 23.

35. (Previously presented) A saddle comprising the saddle tree of claim 24.

- 36. (Previously presented) A saddle comprising the saddle tree of claim 25.
- 37. (Previously presented) A saddle comprising the saddle tree of claim 26.
- 38. (Previously presented) A saddle comprising the saddle tree of claim 27.
- 39. (Previously presented) A saddle comprising the saddle tree of claim 28.
- 40. (Previously presented) A saddle comprising the saddle tree of claim 29.
- 41. (Previously presented) A saddle comprising the saddle tree of claim 30.
- 42. (Previously presented) A saddle comprising the saddle tree of claim 31.
- 43. (Previously presented) A saddle comprising the saddle tree of claim 32.
- 44. (Previously presented) A saddle comprising the saddle tree of claim 33.
- 45. (New) A saddle tree as claimed in claim 23 wherein the flexible resin material is a polyurethane resin.
- 46. (New) A saddle comprising the saddle tree of claim 45.